

INFORMATION REPORT

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USSR

REPORT

Miscellaneous Border Guard
Information

DATE DISTR. 20 September 1954

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REQUIREMENT

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Comments.

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1. In paragraph 1, sviyazist is correctly svyazist
2. In paragraph 5, Shtatno-dislocatzionnaya is correctly Shtatno-dislokatsionnaya.
3. In paragraph 6, art-techzluzhba is correctly art-tekhsluzhba.
4. In paragraph 15 and 25, for Main Administration of Border Troops, read Chief Directorate of Border Troops.
5. In paragraph 16, for Pogranichniki-Moryoki read Pogranichniki-Moryaki.

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SOVIET BORDER GUARD MOS's

1. [redacted] about the existence of MOS's for Border Guard personnel; [redacted] each individual was appointed to a specific position, i.e., that an officer was appointed as regimental commander, or an EM as a signal specialist (sviyazist).

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SOVIET BORDER GUARD TO's

2. [redacted] in each border detachment, Komendatura and zastava, there is a book called the "T/O Responsibility Book" ("Shtatnodolzhnostnyye knigi"). Each member of the command is listed by duty, title, birthplace, education, party affiliation (if applicable), nationality, year of call-up, etc. In a zastava, this roll would include, for example, about 50 men; in a Komendatura, about 350 men.
3. TO's as such (theoretical organization charts rather than actual personnel rolls) are held in Moscow and at the district and detachment levels. Zastava TO's existed for three categories of zastavas: 1. In the 1st category unit, there are 62 to 64 men (three officers, eight sergeants, the remainder lesser ranking troops), in the 2nd category there are 50 to 52 men (three officers, eight sergeants, the remainder lesser ranking troops), in the 3d category there are 38 to 42 men (three officers, eight sergeants, the remainder lesser ranking troops).

25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

25X1

4. In a komendatura, there are five line zastavas, one reserve zastava, an administrative and supply zastava (zastava obespecheniya), and a staff. The staff consists of the CO, a chief of staff, an assistant to chief of staff, and five staff sections. 2.
5. There are no TO's held in the komendatura, but [] the printed variety at the detachment level. In this TO is printed the number of officers, sergeants and soldiers: "So many chauffeurs, so many signalmen, so many submachine gunners, so many engineers, etc.". TO rosters are also maintained at the district level on a personnel disposition report (Shtatno-dislocatzionnaya vedomost').

25X1

BORDER GUARD T/E's

6. [] about the status of Border Guard T/E's. [] at detachment level there is a deputy commander for supply: (Zam po snabzheniyu). He has the responsibility of furnishing food, forage, clothing, technical equipment, etc.. Under his direction is the artillery technical service (art-techzluzhba) which holds various T/E's: (shtaty) for the various categories of zastavas, Komendaturas, and detachments. This lists, for example, the number of rifles, SMGS, HMGS, LMGS, grenades, cartridges, etc..

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SOVIET BORDER GUARD UNIT ALERT ORDERS

7. [] discussions of what to do at zastava and komendatura level in case of routine border violations or even in case of enemy attack were contained in the publication Instruction for Tracking and Capture of Border Violators which had a top secret classification.
8. In addition each Border Guard unit has worked out a defensive plan (plan po oborone) tailored for its own use from the zastava level on up through the detachment which indicated in detail action to be taken in event of sudden enemy attack in force. On each level, the plan is worked out in detail by the CO and his staff under the supervision, guidance and with the final approval of the next higher Border Guard headquarters. These plans are all encompassing, covering such things as logistical support, (number of trucks, horses, medical aid plan, amounts of classes of supply); signal operations, combat plan; reserves which can be counted upon; air ground cooperation and even when, how much and what kind of support can be expected from the Soviet army.

25X1

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SOVIET BORDER GUARD UNIT STAFF SECTIONS

10. [] and [] the function of Border Guard staff sections the numbering system had been reshuffled in 1950 as indicated below:

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<u>Section Functions</u>	<u>Present Number</u>	<u>Previous Number</u>
Intelligence (positive)	First Section	Fifth Section
Physical Security	Second Section	First Section
Signal Communications	Third Section	Fifth Section
Personnel 3.	Fourth Section	Fourth Section

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25X1

- 3 -

Combat Training	Fifth Section	Third Section
Codes and Ciphers	No Number	
Administration	No Number	

At the detachment level, these sections are known as "otdeleniya"; at the district level, they are called "otdely". A Secretariat is also to be found at the district level.

SOVIET BORDER GUARD OFFICER ADVISORS TO THE EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARD:

11.

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[redacted] some [redacted] officers had been assigned as advisors to the East German Border Guard (Grenz Bereitschaften) and that, although the German personnel of this organization bore the nominal responsibility, the Soviet advisors bore the actual responsibility for border security, [redacted] and for the efficient organization and functioning of the German service.

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12.

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SOVIET BORDER GUARD ADVISORS TO THE MONGOLIAN BORDER GUARD:

13.

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[redacted] a Soviet Border Guard Colonel (fnu) ZAYTZEV, was posted to the Mongolian Border Guard at ULAN-BATOR /N 47-56, E 106-53/ as an advisor on propaganda matters.

14.

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[redacted] the Mongolian Border Guard was made up along the Soviet pattern with zastavas, komendaturas, detachments, etc.. ZAYTZEV was posted to a detachment. He was the junior of two Soviet officers with the Mongolian Border Guard. [redacted] the other officer, [redacted] wasn't liked and was recalled after one year.

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SOVIET BORDER GUARD NAVAL PERSONNEL:

15.

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[redacted] concerning Border Guard naval personnel. [redacted] the Main Administration of Border Troops (GUPV) in Moscow there was a Naval Department (Morskoy Otdel) supervised by a naval officer. In border districts where there are water areas there is a Naval Section (Mor-otdeleniye) included in the District Staff. Units themselves are called Naval Divisions and River Divisions.

CONFIDENTIAL

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- 4 -

25X1

16. [] these units are regular naval personnel whose naval supplies are furnished through naval channels, but who are under the direct operational control of the Border Guard District Commander. [] these individuals were called "Pogranichniki-Moryoki" (Border Guard Sailors) but they were members of the Soviet Fleet on duty with the MGB's Border Guard for long tours. []
17. [] the maritime Border Guard members, [] were actually members of the Navy. The EM had completed special Naval Technical Schools; the officers had completed the Army's Officer Branch Immaterial (OBShCHEVOYSKOVAYA) School after which they were posted for duty with the Border Guard service.
18. [] there are some Border Guard maritime personnel stationed along the Amu-Darya.
19. [] Border Guard enlisted naval personnel wear black shoulder boards with green piping, along with the regular naval uniform. Officers wear the regular naval officers' uniform and shoulder boards, but the latter have green piping.

SOVIET BORDER GUARD UNIT COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY AMONG THE NEARBY CIVILIAN POPULACE:

20. [] the collective farm known as "POGRANICHNIK" - ("Border Guard"), located near Kushka. [] the name had been arbitrarily selected and had no special implication. The farm was a special sheep raising unit made up of several smaller farms which were in turn made up of groups of collectivized shepherds, who tended sheep far up in the mountains. Many of these shepherds [] as members of a "Brigade for Cooperation with the Border Guard" - ("BRIGADA SODEYSTVIYA S POGRANICHNIKAMI") who reported any suspicious activity or movement through their working areas. In addition, [] each small group of shepherds had at least one or two secret agents employed by the Border Guards' first staff section.

SOVIET BORDER GUARD PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES:

21. [] no universal stripping pattern applied, [] at times certain Border Guard units [] having one plowed strip, others two strips in front, sometimes one strip on one flank, sometimes on both, at other times on neither flank. [] the amount of precaution taken was solely dependent on the character of the terrain and vegetation, the importance of a given sector, and the likelihood of traffic through it. [] GUVV regulations called for only one continuous strip-a minimum of 8 to 10 m. wide, thousands of kilometers long. [] occasionally had it widened to 12 and sometimes 16 m. as a safety margin in his own area.
22. GUVV further recommends but leaves to the komendatura commander the option of a second and even third strip. [] the experienced Border Guard commander ("ZUBOK" or "VOLK" - "fanged one" or "wolf") will plan his defenses commensurate with his past experience and the amount, number and type of past violations. In a hilly or mountainous country and waterless wasteland, not so much vigilance is necessary as along natural approach routes to the border, particularly where there are villages and perhaps, a railroad or a river, that could assist an illegal border-crosser in orienting himself. If an individual commander wants to strip his flanks as well, he may.

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25X1

- 5 -

23. Thus, these additional supplementary strips aid the wise commander in more timely location and apprehension of violators and even would-be violators, often before they reach the actual frontier. One strip may be right on or near the frontier, sometimes as much as 100-150 m. inside; a second strip may be 2 to 5 km. back, and a third, 10 to even 15 km. back. By such measures, the vigilant Border Guard commander gets wind of an attempted break at times long before the violator gets near the border. In mountainous territory, breaks usually occur along paths, ravines, streams: therefore, these receive most attention in planning. In [] Kushka was the only rail and road-head through a valley and the only water source for miles. Therefore, the village of Kushka received great emphasis. Where the frontier is potentially dangerous from the standpoint of ease of violation, the greatest degree of vigilance is maintained. 25X1

SOVIET BORDER GUARD AND OTHER MVD TROOP UNIT TRAINING PUBLICATIONS:

24. [] manuals and publications were used by MVD troops. [] they used Soviet army manuals where applicable such as the Field Service Regulation, Internal Service Regulations, etc. In addition, the Border Guard had certain manuals of its own; among these were (1) Instructions Regarding Frontier Violations - (Instruktsiya po Sluzhbe Pogranichnykh Naruyadov). (2) Instruction for Line Border Guard Zastavas - (Instruktsiya po Sluzhbe Lineynykh Zastav). There is a text entitled Instruction for the Tracking and Capture of Border Violators (Instruktsiya po Organizatsii Rozyska i Zaderzmani Narushiteley Granitsy). There are two tactical-technical guides (Taktiko-Tekhnicheskiye Spravochniki). These are all found at the komendatura level and higher. No further information. 25X1
25. [] concerning special Border Guard military symbols, [] there was a brochure of military symbols, worked out especially for the Border Guard. The brochure consisted of selected army symbols plus special Border Guard symbols. This brochure (Brochuyurka) was published by the Main Border Guard Directorate (GUPV). [] how many symbols there were, [] there were a very great many. 25X1
1. [] Comment: [] A "zastava" is a company or platoon level Border Guard unit. It is the lowest administrative and organizational entity; the three distinct sizes of zastavas enables them to be better fitted to particular missions. The line zastavas could be made up on any or all of the three separate types or categories. 25X1
2. [] 25X1
3. [] Comment: At the detachment level, the Fourth Section handles all personnel matters, at district level only enlisted personnel matters. At the district level, there is an additional [] staff section for officer personnel matters. 25X1
4. [] 25X1

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